



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FIFTEEN INDICTED IN
PERMIAN BASIN BASED HEROIN AND COCAINE OPERATION**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced this morning the indictment of fifteen West Texas area residents on federal drug and firearm charges. These indictments and arrests highlight the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas's effort to help reduce the demand for drugs in West Texas.

"These arrests and charges are a great example of local, state and federal law enforcement working together to take drug dealers off our streets and make our communities safer places to live. We are committed to educating the public about the current drug threat and the links between drugs, crime, and violence." **stated U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton.**

The fifteen defendants were charged in a federal grand jury indictment returned yesterday in Midland. All were charged with Illegal Distribution of Heroin or Cocaine except for three defendants who were charged with being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm.

Those who have already been arrested include:

- 43 year old Ricardo Urbina of Odessa, Texas - Distribution of Heroin and Methamphetamine, up to 20 years incarceration;
- 37 year old Fernando Martinez - Distribution of Morphine (decomposed heroin), up to 20 years incarceration;
- 30 year old Eduardo Nino of Odessa, Texas - Distribution of Cocaine, up to 20 years incarceration;

"Methamphetamine, cocaine and heroin are a serious drug threat to West Texas," **stated Sutton.** To reduce the demand for controlled substances, we will vigorously prosecute those who distribute and sell these dangerous and highly addictive drugs," stated Sutton.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the West Texas Narcotics Task Force consisting of the Texas Department of Public Safety Narcotics Unit, Ector County Sheriff's Office, Odessa Police Department, Crane County Sheriff's Office, City of Crane Police Department, Upton County Sheriff's Office, Ward County Sheriff's Office, Martin County Sheriff's Office, Big Spring Police Department and Howard County Sheriff's Office. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Glenn Roque-Jackson.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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